

## CLAIMS:

1. A method for performing trickplay operations on a multimedia playback device, said playback device comprising a plurality of processing means each with at least one buffer wherein the plurality of processing means process stored multimedia content in a serial manner, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 receiving a trickplay request during regular multimedia playback;
  - determining appropriate frame for processing at a last processing means in response to said trickplay request;
  - retrieving the appropriate frame from a buffer using meta data stored in the buffer which identifies said frame;
  - 10 processing said retrieved frame;
  - selecting second appropriate frame in stored multimedia content for processing by a first processing means in response to said trickplay request;
  - processing said second appropriate frame and subsequently selected frames so that the second appropriate frame is available to the last processing means when the last
  - 15 processing means has completed processing of said retrieved frame.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the trickplay request is for a fast forward mode of operation.
- 20 3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
when trickplay request is received, each of said processing means determines the appropriate frame from the associated buffer for processing in response to the trickplay request.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the trickplay request is for a fast
- 25 reverse mode of operation.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein all buffers except for the buffer associated with the last processing means are flushed after the trickplay request is received.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein multiple buffers are associated with the last processing means.
7. The method according to claim 4, wherein the last processing means selects at least one previously processed I-frame which is still in said buffer associated with the last processing means.
8. A multimedia playback device, comprising:  
a plurality of processing means (106, 108, 110, 112) each with at least one buffer (107, 109, 111, 113) wherein the plurality of processing means process stored multimedia content in a serial manner;  
means for receiving (114) a trickplay request during regular multimedia playback;  
means for determining (112, 114) appropriate frame for processing at a last processing means in response to said trickplay request;  
means for retrieving (112) the appropriate frame from a buffer using meta data stored in the buffer which identifies said frame;  
means for processing (112) said retrieved frame;  
means for selecting (106, 114) second appropriate frame in stored multimedia content for processing by a first processing means in response to said trickplay request;  
means for processing (106, 108, 110) said second appropriate frame and subsequently selected frames so that the second appropriate frame is available to the last processing means (112) when the last processing means (112) has completed processing of said retrieved frame.
9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the trickplay request is for a fast forward mode of operation.
10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when trickplay request is received, each of said processing means determines the appropriate frame from the associated buffer for processing in response to the trickplay request.
11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the trickplay request is for a reverse mode of operation.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein all buffers except for the buffer associated with the last processing means are flushed after the trickplay request is received.
- 5 13. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein multiple buffers are associated with the last processing means.
14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the last processing means selects at least one previously processed I-frame which is still in said buffer associated with  
10 the last processing means.
15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a display device (115) reads frames out of the buffer of the last processing means in reverse frame order.
- 15 16. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said buffers are part of a single shared memory.
17. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said buffers are distributed over multiple memories.